

BRIEFS

STUDY AIMS TO ADVANCE SOCIETAL ENGAGEMENTS

CINCINNATI, Oh. (BP) — Cincinnati Area Baptist Association in Ohio has completed a study focused on societal and biblical truths that includes seven recommendations addressing poverty, hunger, geographically-based unemployment, racism, criminal injustice, opioid addiction, and other problems. "What does it take for us to be able to engage properly as we should, as followers of Jesus?" asks Mark Snowden, director of missional leadership for the association. This study is at least trying to help us say, "What does the Bible say to address that?" To access the study, visit CincinnatiBaptist.com.

CHRISTIAN TEEN'S DEATH THIRD IN TWO MONTHS

LAKHORE, Pakistan (BP) — Arsalan Masih became the third Christian teenager to die in Pakistan in the past two months when seven police officers beat the 14-year-old to death Oct. 9 because he had gotten into a fight four months before with a Muslim classmate who tried to bully him into renouncing his faith, Morning Star News reported. Arsalan's father said officers burst into the boy's classroom at school and brutally beat him. "When they bundled him into the police van, Arsalan collapsed and died. Later the police team threw Arsalan's body on the roadside and fled," his father said.

ACLU WANTS PHARMACIES TO SELL ABORTIFACIENTS

HAWAII (BP) — Abortion-inducing drugs should be available at local pharmacies, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) argues in a lawsuit filed in Hawaii. Randall O'Bannon of National Right to Life retorted, "The ACLU and the abortion lobby don't like the FDA (Food and Drug Administration) reminding women of [the] risks... Anything that allows prescribers or patients to be less informed of the risks or less attuned to the warning signs — which is what the changes the ACLU and the abortion industry seeks would do — is grossly irresponsible and dangerous."

Pastor's Conference set for Oct. 30

JACKSON, Ms. (Special) — The 2017 annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Pastors Conference will be held Oct. 30 at First Church, Jackson. There is no charge for admission; an offering will be taken.

This year's theme is The Shepherd and His God, taken from Psalm 78:72, where David is celebrated as the head of the Messianic line and shepherd of the people of God.

Five preachers from across the spectrum of Southern Baptist life will be speaking at the conference. They include two Mississippi Baptist pastors: Keith Warden of First Church, Picayune, and Micah Carter of First Church, Ripley.

Three other leaders in Southern Baptist life are on the program: Jared Wilson, director of content strategy and managing editor of For The Church, at Midwestern Seminary in Kansas City, Mo.; Jim Shaddix, professor of preaching at Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.; and Russell Moore, a native Mississippian and president of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) in Nashville.

"We are looking forward to gathering with pastors and others from across the state of Mississippi who love to hear the word of God preached," said Greg Belsler, 2017 pastors conference president and senior pastor of Morrison Heights Church, Clinton. "I urge all Mississippi pastors to make every effort to be in attendance."

A complimentary pre-conference and lunch sponsored by the International Mission Board (IMB) of the SBC will begin at 11 a.m. The focus of this pre-conference will be global discipling through partnering with IMB. The program will include presentations by IMB leadership and interaction with pastors leading their churches to fulfill the Great Commission.

Registration for the pre-conference is free but required, and can be accomplished by e-mailing Tracy Thomas at tthomas@morrisonheights.org or by calling (601) 925-6427.

2017 Mississippi Baptist Pastors Conference

THE SHEPHERD AND HIS GOD • PSALM 78:72

PASTORS CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

- 1:00 p.m. Worship in Song
- 1:10 p.m. Welcome Theme Interpretation
Greg Belsler, President, 2017 MS Baptist Pastors Conference
- 1:20 p.m. Life Action Ministries Sponsor Presentation
- 1:30 p.m. Worship in Song
- 1:35 p.m. Jared Wilson, Director of Content Strategy and Managing Editor of For the Church resources, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, MO
- 2:25 p.m. Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary Sponsor Presentation
- 2:35 p.m. Worship in Song
- 2:45 p.m. Micah Carter, Pastor, First Baptist Church, Ripley, MS
- 3:30 p.m. Election of 2019 Officers, Wade Stevens, President-Elect, 2018 MS Baptist Pastors Conference
- 3:35 p.m. Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary Sponsor Presentation
- 3:45 p.m. Worship in Song
- 4:00 p.m. Jim Shaddix, Professor of Preaching and Director of the Center for Pastoral Leadership and Preaching, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, NC
- 4:45 p.m. Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary Sponsor Presentation
- 4:55 p.m. Benediction, William Carpenter
- BREAK FOR DINNER
- 6:15 p.m. Choral Worship, Celebration Choir and Orchestra, Morrison Heights Baptist Church, Clinton, MS
- 6:25 p.m. Welcome, Greg Belsler
- 6:30 p.m. New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Sponsor Presentation
- 6:45 p.m. Choral Worship, Celebration Choir and Orchestra, Morrison Heights Baptist Church, Clinton, MS
- 7:00 p.m. Keith Warden, Pastor, FBC, Picayune, MS
- 7:45 p.m. Worship in Song
- 7:50 p.m. Offering
- 7:55 p.m. Special Music
- 8:00 p.m. Russell Moore, President, The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission of the SBC, Nashville, TN
- 8:45 p.m. Presentation of 2018 MS Baptist Pastors Conference Leadership, Greg Belsler
- Benediction, Wade Stevens, President of the 2018 MS Baptist Pastors Conference



BELSER



WILSON



SHADDIX



WARDEN



CARTER



MOORE

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From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

Created by dust balls

Scientists have announced that they have another (yes, another) theory about how life began on earth. One loses count, doesn't one?

According to news articles promulgated by Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in Livermore, Ca., researchers have found that colliding comets may well have seeded the planet with the building blocks of life, namely amino acids that are critical components of proteins that are critical components of... well, you get the picture that all of this culminates in scientists' minds with the introduction of humanity after a couple million years of evolution.

Nir Goldman, a researcher at the national laboratory who holds a doctorate in physical chemistry from the University of California at Berkeley, has argued since at least 2010 that a cataclysmic collision of a pair of comets, or an equally cataclysmic collision between a comet and earth, could have contained enough prebiotic (before life) materials and sufficient energy to spark production of those useful amino acids.

According to the news articles, collaborators from Imperial College in London and the University of Kent conducted a series of experiments very similar to Goldman's simulations in which a projectile was fired using a light gas gun into a typical cometary ice mixture. The British researchers reported it was their conclusion that several different types of amino acids were formed.

"These results confirm our earlier predictions of impact synthesis of prebiotic material, where the impact itself can yield life-building compounds," Goldman said in one of the articles. "Our work provides a realistic additional synthetic production pathway for the components of proteins in our solar system, expanding the inventory of locations where life could potentially originate."

Ah, To reduce that lofty explanation to something even a newspaper editor could understand, it would appear Goldman is saying cometary collisions

could create life in any number of places, in any number of ways, at any given time.

What Goldman didn't say, and probably didn't intend to say since he is a scientist, is that this is yet another theory that effectively eliminates the involvement of God in our creation. If comets can randomly collide and form life that results in us in two or three thousand millennia, who needs a Creator?

Furthermore, if we can be formed almost anywhere in the universe from a chance, high-speed encounter with what amounts to an interstellar ice cube, we aren't very special, are we? Life could happen anywhere, given the right conditions and a pair of giant, frozen dust balls converging at incredible speeds, so who are we to consider ourselves God's highest creation?

Goldman and his collaborators being scientists, it's highly likely that they intentionally avoided injecting any religiosity into the conclusions of their carefully controlled experiments. However, there are plenty of other people who will take this opportunity to bolster their argument against divine creation, and many people will be led astray.

What's wrong with what the Bible has to say about creation? Why couldn't it have occurred as the Bible describes? It's not only possible, but a fact that God was involved and that creation happened just as the Bible depicts it. There may be a whole lot of details we don't understand about the process but we know inarguably that God created us and everything else.

The story goes that a group of scientists approached God and smugly announced, "Sir, we have studied and experimented for years, and we now understand how mankind came to be. We no longer need You. We know how to create life without You, and we are going to proceed to show You."

With that, the scientists confidently scooped up a hefty handful of soil and began to form it into a man.

"Wait a minute," God said. "Use your own dirt."

Holding the Ropes

Let me tell you about a couple of guys I have met in the last few months.

There is David (name changed to protect identity), who serves in one of the world's most populated cities. He is a godly man, has a great family, and possesses a tremendous desire to reach the unreached with the Gospel.

He is rock solid doctrinally and is somewhat of a specialist in that God has uniquely equipped him with knowledge and a passion to reach some of the hardest to reach. He serves on the African continent and has a call to reach Muslims. He engages them every week, and God has opened the hearts of many who have accepted Christ as their Savior.

Then there is Elesio, who serves in one of the world's most under-served areas. He too is a godly man, with a great family and a tremendous passion to share the Gospel. Like David, he is theologically solid and God has uniquely equipped him with the knowledge and ability to reach some who also are among the world's lost masses.

He serves on the Asian continent and is a gifted pastor/teacher reaching his people with the Gospel. He is doing a fantastic job raising up leaders and teaching them to share their faith. Through their work, many have come to faith and several congregations have been planted.

What is different between David and Elesio besides their nationality and where they serve? They are both godly men doing a fantastic job reaching the unreached, but Elesio has to leave his mission field to raise the support his family



Guest opinion

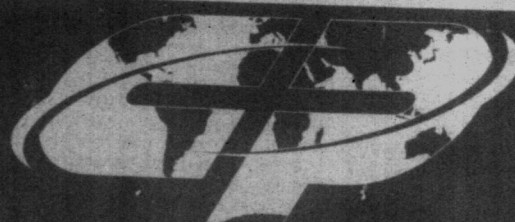
with Rick Hilliard

needs. He has very few people supporting the work to which God has called him. He lives modestly but often needs the support of others to make ends meet.

David, on the other hand, is one of around 3,700 missionaries supported by Cooperative Program dollars. He is supported by our mission sending board and is able to devote himself fulltime to reaching the people God has entrusted to him.

He doesn't have to worry about the support his family needs because Southern Baptist churches are holding the ropes by their faithful giving through the Cooperative Program. Whether in North America or to the nations, your Cooperative Program dollars go a long way in holding the ropes of those who preach the Good News.

Hilliard is director of missional coordination for the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana, headquartered in Martinsville. This column first appeared in the Indiana Baptist Magazine, and appears here courtesy of Baptist Press. Edited for style.



THE Baptist Record

Editor
William H. Perkins Jr.
wperkins@mbcb.org

Associate Editor
Tony Martin
tmartin@mbcb.org

Layout/Design
Megan Young
myoung@mbcb.org

Advertising
Dana Richardson
d Richardson@mbcb.org

Circulation Manager
Amy Massey
amassey@mbcb.org

Baptist Record
Advisory Committee:
Whit Lewis, New Albany
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39205-0530.

Tel: (601) 960-3800
Fax: (601) 292-3330
E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org

BAPTISTS

VOLUME 141 • NUMBER 41 • ISSN 0005-5778

Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 575 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$11.99 per year payable in advance. Economy plans available for cooperating Mississippi churches. Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS. Member Association of State Baptist Papers. Deadlines: News items — one calendar week prior to requested publication date. Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to requested publication date. All submissions are subject to editing.

New Orleans Seminary marks century of service

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (NOBTS) kicked off its 100th anniversary celebration with special events on Oct. 3, along with the announcement of upcoming centennial initiatives focused on evangelism and missions.

Activities began with the annual Founders Day chapel service, as seminary president Chuck Kelley pointed past the seminary's 1917 founding to the true "seed" from which the seminary sprang — the Acts 1:8 commission by Jesus to take the Gospel to all nations.

Kelley asked Southern Baptists to join with NOBTS in reaching 100,000 Gospel conversations during the centennial year in honor of that commission.

"We were created to be a lighthouse as well as a schoolhouse," Kelley said. "We're asking all Southern Baptists, not just our seminary family, to help us tell 100,000 people about Jesus."

NOBTS has created a smartphone app (subsplash.com/neworleansbaptisttheologicalseminaryla/app) to help track the 100,000 Gospel conversations. The app also offers evangelism helps, a reporting tool, and follow-up assistance to help connect individuals with a local church.

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention in Jackson and an NOBTS alum, expressed gratitude for the seminary's influence on his life, adding, "I am the least of all the saints, but I am the most grateful."

Kelley's sermon marked the first in a series of chapel sermons preaching through the Book of Acts that will continue throughout the centennial and close on Oct. 4 of next year. Featured speakers will include:

■ R. Albert Mohler Jr., president of Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

■ Jeff Iorg, president of Gateway Seminary in the Los Angeles area.

■ Russell Moore, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission in Nashville.

The NOBTS centennial goals include \$50 million for scholarship endowments, campus renovation, and expenditures, and 100 mission trips during the year involving the NOBTS family, alumni, and friends.

NOBTS was founded as the Baptist Bible Institute in New Orleans by vote of messengers to the 1917 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, which was held in New Orleans that summer. It was intended as a training school for missionaries, and classes began in October 1918.

At the time, the New Orleans area had few Baptists and less than 10 Baptist churches. Kelley called the creation of the seminary a "radical" decision, since Southern Baptist denominational entities typically were placed in cities with a strong base of support.

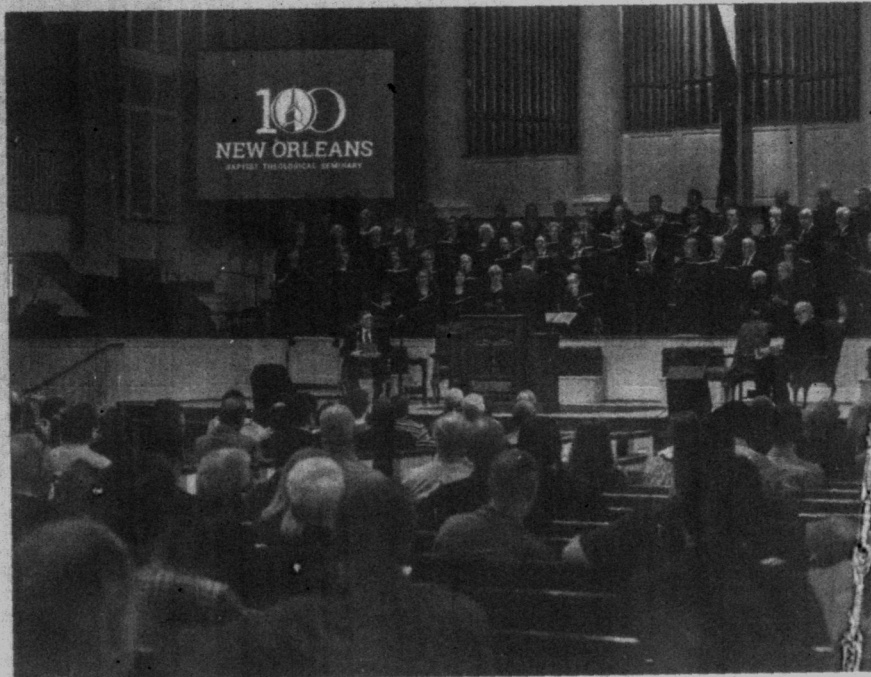
God has been faithful and the seminary has been a "lighthouse" to the city, Kelley said. He noted that Baptists today make up the second largest religious group in the city, with New Orleans Association presently encompassing more than 125 churches.

"We were put here to bear witness to Jesus," Kelley said. "That's what the centennial is about. It's about remembering that being a witness for Christ is not convenient... and of our own accord we are not likely to do, but with the Holy Spirit enabling us, we are able."

An evening service Oct. 4 with a revival-like atmosphere featured Junior Hill, a 1962 NOBTS alumnus and noted evangelist.

David Hankins, executive director of the Louisiana Baptist Convention in Alexandria, thanked the seminary for its partnership with and contributions to Louisiana Baptists. Hankins noted the faculty and students who serve as pastors and church staff members; the NOBTS ministry in the Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola; and the seminary's support of a church planting initiative that has netted 50 new Louisiana congregations since 2010.

"We're thankful for the partnership we have," Hankins said.



CELEBRATING 100 — The Louisiana Singing Ministers and Singing Women perform Oct. 3 during Founders Day chapel service at New Orleans Seminary, helping launch a year-long celebration of the seminary's centennial. (BP photo)

"We were put here to bear witness to Jesus. That's what the centennial is about. It's about remembering that being a witness for Christ is not convenient... and of our own accord we are not likely to do, but with the Holy Spirit enabling us, we are able."

Chuck Kelley

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary president

"Only heaven knows the eternal good that has come from what has gone from this institution."

Kelley reminded the evening audience that the Gospel began "on the streets of Jerusalem and by the shores of Galilee" to reach them where they were, representing an unbroken chain of Gospel conversations.

"Don't break the chain," Kelley urged. "There are people who will not hear about Jesus

if we are not faithful in talking about Jesus."

Vocational evangelist Junior Hill of Alabama spoke on the parable of the seed, the soil, and the sower in Luke 8:5-15, noting a fourth consideration stemming from the passage: Satan's strategy.

"The battleground we're facing today is that the devil is assaulting those of us who have the seed in our hand to take it

away so that the world won't be able to hear it," Hill said. "It is happening on every corner, and we better be aware of the subtleties of Satan lest he take the seed out of our hand."

Hill said Satan thwarts believers' efforts through intimidation by causing believers to ignore God's prompting, to share; spending time on evaluation of an opportunity to share rather than proclamation; and becoming weary in well-doing.

Urging the NOBTS community not to give up or give in to weariness, Hill reminded that one day they will hear God say, "Well-done, thou good and faithful servant."

"Oh, my dear brothers and sisters, we have a Gospel to share," Hill concluded. "May God give us grace that we be faithful to share."

Rep. to step down amid abortion controversy

WASHINGTON (BP and local reports) — U.S. Rep. Tim Murphy (R-Pa.), a purported pro-lifer accused of having asked his ex-mistress to have an abortion, announced Oct. 4 he will not seek re-election when his eighth legislative term ends in January.



MURPHY

"After discussions with my family and staff, I have come to the decision that I will not seek reelection to Congress at the end of my current term," he said in an official statement at murphy.house.gov.

Murphy (R-Pa.) made the statement after the

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette published text messages between Murphy and Shannon Edwards, with whom Murphy has admitted adultery. In the texts, it appears Murphy asked Edwards to abort a child the two thought she had conceived as a result of their transgressions, but she turned out to not be pregnant, according to news reports.

Murphy, whose pro-life voting record was tallied at 100% by the Family Research Council, admitted the affair in a Sept. 6 court hearing involving divorce proceedings between Edwards and her husband Jesse Sally, but he has not publicly admitted to asking Edwards to have an abortion.

Murphy has not responded to questions submitted by Baptist

Press on Oct. 5. He was first elected to Congress in November 2002 after serving in the Pennsylvania State Senate, according to the biography on his House website.

Murphy is a practicing psychologist specializing in child and family treatment. He authored the award-winning books, *The Angry Child* (2001), and *Overcoming Passive-Aggression* (2005).

It was one of those surprise experiences. A couple came into our church and sat down on the back row. They had a little baby that I later found out was two-and-a-half months old. From the front of the church, I could only see there was somebody back there who I could not identify and that they had a little new life package with them. It was not until the close of the service that several people came down and helped me get directed to the back where I could meet this young couple. I met the mother and her husband and their little baby boy.

They held the little boy throughout the service and now were gently holding him and trying to deal with a heart monitor connected to him and a portable feeding apparatus for him. What was wrong? They began to tell me their story of how the mother had difficulty giving birth and the little boy had gone without oxygen for an extended period of time and had some brain damage. They explained to me that the portion of the brain that had been affected controls his throat, swallowing mechanism, and his voice box.

This little baby, not yet three months old, would wake up and look around but he could not swallow on his own. He could not make any sounds. The young mom choked back tears by laughing and explained to me, "He is a perfect baby. He never cries." Then, unable to hold back the tears, she said, "Oh, how many times I would love to hear him cry, but he never will." My heart broke for this young couple and for this precious little babe.



Directions

With Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Cries of a Baby

Sometimes I think about how we complain about the problems of life when, if we stopped and thought about it, we should be rejoicing about some of those problems. This being a good example, that when we get upset about a child who won't stop crying, it might not hurt if we paused to think about the mother who will never hear her son cry. Crying and being fussy is a baby's language. They are talking at a base level saying things like: I'm hungry. I'm sleepy. I need changing. I need love. I'm cold. It's somewhat of a limited language, but moms and to some extent dads learn it fairly quickly.

Still, you have to be alert and attentive to this new language or you'll miss the baby's text message being sent to you. On a spiritual level, the Apostle Paul addresses infants in church. In 1 Corinthians 3:1 and following, he tells about babies in

the church and apparently they had gotten his attention. It is noteworthy, though, that babies are much like their adult counterparts. They want what they want when they want it with little or no time lapse whatsoever. They want to be understood. They want something done if you can't understand them. There are several items that we need to remember when dealing with babies, whether they are new in our homes or scattered throughout the congregation at our churches.

First of all, we need to remember that babies are not mean, evil little creatures. They may get on your nerves. They may not understand what your commands are all about. They may not even be able to be understood when they cry, but it is important we remember how precious they are even though they are difficult

to deal with sometimes. They certainly should not dictate everything that goes on in a household day after day after day, but it is always wise and helpful to pay attention to them because they at times desperately need you. They have no one else but you.

A second item to remember is don't get upset or angry when a baby cries. It is the only mechanism available to them for communication. There ought to be times when you pause to give thanks that they can cry. Remember the precious young mom with her infant child and how she longed for him to be able to cry.

Another item to remember is to keep loving them and encouraging them to grow and to learn. It takes time and patience for a baby to grow. Most of them will grow and mature and learn to talk and walk and sing and share life with you, so keep on loving and keep on lifting them up.

One last item to remember is that as you deal with a baby, it is not necessary to act like them. Seriously, it is best if you are a grownup to act like you are. You once were a baby yourself, but if you have moved on to maturity try to stay there. As the Apostle Paul said, "When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things" (1 Cor. 13:11).

God help us to love babies when they cry or even if they are unable to, and be there to love them. Try to understand and nurture them. They will be blessed and so will you.

The author can be contacted at directions@mbcb.org.

Revivals & Homecomings

► **Rose Hill Church, Ross Hill:** Homecoming, Oct. 22; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by fellowship meal; Dalton Smith, speaker.

► **O'Zion Church, Berrytown Community, Franklin County:** celebrated its 100th anniversary recently. Charlie Seale, speaker; Nanette Gamill, music; Wanja McGuffie, pianist; Glen Byrd, pastor.

► **Cumberland Church, Mabon:** Revival, Oct. 22 - 25; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Rusty Kuhn, speaker; Ronnie Cottingham, music; Chris Barrow, pastor.

► **Zion Hill Church, Wesson:** Revival, Oct. 22 - 25; Sun., 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; homecoming, Oct. 29; worship, 10:45 a.m. followed by fellowship meal; building fund offering to be received.



BRO. CHRIS BROADHEAD

601.550.9565
chrisbroadhead5714@gmail.com

Evangelist Chris Broadhead is available for revivals, pulpit supply, or in any direction in which the Lord may lead. Bro. Broadhead is an evangelist who is committed to traditional, Holy Ghost, Bible based preaching and the conservative views of the Baptist doctrine. Bro. Broadhead is a member of Magnolia Baptist Church and is pursuing his degree in church ministries. He is married and resides in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. He can be contacted by phone, text, or email at: 601.550.9565 or Chrisbroadhead5714@gmail.com

MS POSITIONS

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THE CLARKE COUNTY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION WILL BE ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS UNTIL NOVEMBER 15, 2017. The association consists of 29 churches and our office is located in Quitman, MS. Please email resumes to enterprisebaptist@att.net or mail to CBA/DOM, ATTN: Rev. Macon Phillips, 404 River Rd. Enterprise, MS 39330.

UNITY BAPTIST CHURCH, MOSELLE, MISSISSIPPI IS SEEKING A PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER/DIRECTOR. Send resumes to Unity Baptist Church, Youth Director Search Committee, P.O. Box 156, Moselle, Mississippi 39459.

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USAF punishes officer for marriage views

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (BP and local reports) — U.S. Air Force officials have suspended a decorated officer and revoked his recommendation for promotion because he would not sign an unofficial document affirming a retiring subordinate's same



BOHANNON

sex marriage partner. Col. Leland B.H. Bohannon, commander of the Air Force Inspection Agency at Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque, N.M., signed all the requisite documents for a senior noncommissioned service member's May retirement ceremony except for one: a letter of "spousal appreciation" for the homosexual serviceman's partner.

Bohannon's Christian convictions about marriage put him at odds with the request to sign the unofficial, optional letter, and he sought counsel from his chaplain and judge advocate general. While awaiting guidance and with the retirement ceremony

days away, Bohannon asked a two-star general who did not object to same sex marriages to sign the document in his place, but the retiring serviceman filed a complaint alleging Bohannon discriminated against him based on his sexual orientation.

An investigation substantiated the claim and found Bohannon guilty of unlawful discrimination,

according to attorneys with First Liberty, a Plano, Texas-based consortium of attorneys that takes on religious liberty cases and is representing Bohannon.

In an Oct. 5 letter to the director of the Air Force Review Boards Agency, First Liberty attorneys requested a reversal of the findings and penalties against Bohannon in order to forestall a lawsuit.

SBTS trustees adopt Nashville Statement

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP and local reports) — Southern Seminary (SBTS) trustees, enjoying record enrollment of nearly 5,500 students, on Oct. 9 unanimously approved seminary president R. Albert Mohler Jr.'s recommendation to adopt The Nashville Statement as an official part of the school's confessional documents.

The Nashville Statement is a document that affirms biblical teaching about gender and sexuality and seeks to clarify Christian beliefs on some of the most pressing cultural issues. It was published earlier this year by the Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood and signed by evangelical leaders across the United States, including each Southern Baptist seminary president.

Critics from mostly the left side of the political, secular academic, and religious fields have condemned the document. "The... so-called 'Nashville Statement' is poorly named and does not represent the inclusive values of the city & people of Nashville," wrote Nashville Mayor Megan Barry, a Democrat, in a tweet.

That Southern Seminary adopted The Nashville Statement, according to Mohler, is a matter of responsibility. "Southern Seminary takes its confessional responsibility with great significance," Mohler said in an interview immediately following the

Board's public session Monday evening.

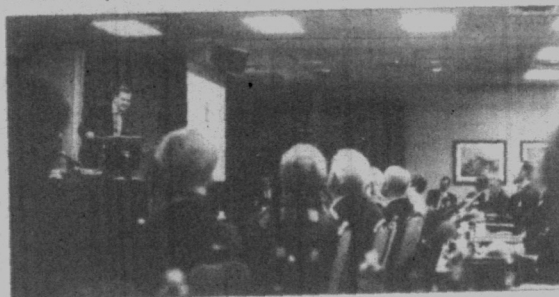
"Years ago, our board of trustees recognized the need of adopting certain statements that clarify and establish the meaning our longstanding confessional documents: the Abstract of Principles, adopted in 1859, and the Baptist Faith and Message, as revised in 2000."

Like the Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy and the Danvers Statement on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood — both previously adopted by the board — The Nashville Statement is a "timely addition" to that list of official documents, Mohler noted.

Faculty members at Southern Seminary and Boyce College, the seminary's undergraduate school, agree to sign and teach according to the Abstract of Principles and the revision of the Baptist Faith and Message.

The Nashville Statement was adopted to help interpret those two binding statements and specify the seminary's conviction on matters not directly addressed in the central confessions of the institution, Mohler said.

The Nashville Statement does not reflect new thinking, Mohler emphasized, but instead affirms historic Christian teaching about human sexuality. What is new, he said, is the need to apply historic Christian teaching to contemporary confusion regarding sex and gender.



POLICY ADOPTED — R. Albert Mohler Jr. (at podium), president of Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., speaks during the seminary's trustee meeting on Oct. 9. Trustees adopted The Nashville Statement on gender and sexuality. (BP photo)



ROADS DAMAGED — Members of the Puerto Rico National Guard inspect one of many roads washed out by Hurricane Maria. Baptist relief efforts have been frustrated by ruined roads and other logistical challenges in delivering aid to victims of the storm. (Photo courtesy of Puerto Rico National Guard)

Puerto Rico disaster relief efforts an uphill challenge

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (BP) — Three weeks after Hurricane Maria hit Puerto Rico, Sam Porter estimates that one-third of the island has yet to receive much care or help.

Porter, national director for disaster relief at Southern Baptists' North American Mission Board (NAMB), has been in Puerto Rico since Oct. 8. He is working with Jack Noble, a retired disaster relief director from the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia convention in Glen Allen, and David Melber, NAMB's president of Send Relief, to coordinate a plan to deliver help and hope to the people of Puerto Rico.

The Southern Baptist Disaster Relief (SBDRL) response to the tragedy will be unlike anything Southern Baptists have faced. The situation in Puerto Rico has been so dire, the devastation so widespread, that SBDRL will be doing much of its recovery work without the assistance of some traditional governmental and charity-based relief partners.

"The circumstance is so unusual that we have to take the full responsibility of this response on our own," Mel-

ber said. "That means buying and shipping the food, renting warehouse space, sending the kitchen equipment, and then providing the volunteers to do the cooking."

"We are forging our entire response by ourselves."

Send Relief is working to establish relief ministry hubs in as many as 15 churches in Puerto Rico where SBDRL volunteers will be able to provide hot meals and other needed services. NAMB and Send Relief have put together pastor kits, including generators, tools, food and other resources, that will go to local churches.

These kits will help those churches become centers for other forms of relief ministry throughout the community as SBDRL and Send Relief volunteers step into the rough living situations in Puerto Rico.

In the first few weeks of October, the opportunities for serving have been limited to trained SBDRL volunteers. Later in October, Send Relief expects to start sending untrained volunteers who have registered through sendrelief.net.

"Our volunteers are roughing it," Porter said. "This is not

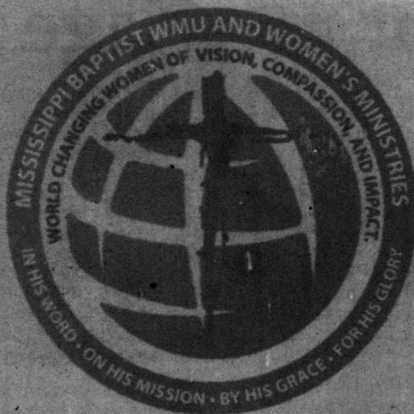
your normal mission trip. Anyone who comes to Puerto Rico needs to be ready for extreme conditions. They will be sleeping on floors. They likely won't be able to shower. They may not even have a flushable toilet."

In a traditional disaster relief setting, volunteers typically have the ability to drive 20 or 30 minutes and find themselves out of the disaster zone. It's not so in Puerto Rico currently.

The damage to the island's infrastructure has made it difficult for NAMB and Send Relief to deliver resources to those who need them most, but God has been opening doors.

Whatever resources can possibly be purchased on the island will be bought in Puerto Rico in order to stimulate the local economy. Whatever cannot be purchased there will be shipped in by sea or by air.

"Send Relief provides the opportunity for every church member to get involved, whether in giving or in volunteering," Porter said. "God has enough resources in the pockets of Southern Baptists across the country to provide relief to the people of Puerto Rico who are in extreme need."



MISSISSIPPI WMU ANNUAL MEETING

First Baptist Church, Jackson

October 30, 2017

12:00-4:30 p.m. - Chapel

Guest Speaker: Sandy Wisdom-Martin

Worship Leader: Teresa Harmening

Special Guests: IMB Representatives

Reception Honoring Janet Green

for four years of outstanding service as our president

2:00 p.m. - Chapel Parlor

MINISTRY WIVES CONFERENCE

Joy in the Journey

October 30, 2017

FBC Jackson 5th Floor

PASTOR'S WIFE • ASSOCIATE PASTOR'S WIFE • CAMPUS MINISTER'S WIFE • CHAPLAIN'S WIFE
MINISTER OF ADMINISTRATION'S WIFE • MINISTER OF MUSIC'S WIFE • MISSIONARY'S WIFE
CITY MINISTER'S WIFE • ANY MINISTER'S WIFE WITH OUR MS SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH'S ENTIRE

1:30 P.M. Registration	2:00 P.M. Special guest:
1:50 P.M. Welcome	Page Hughes
Introductions	"Joy in the Journey"
Greeting	3:00 P.M. Refreshments
Prayer	

SCHEDULED CONVENTION SPECIAL EVENTS

FBC, JACKSON / BAPTIST BUILDING / OTHER LOCATIONS

Monday, October 30, 2017

■ MCECF

Mississippi Baptist Christian Educators Fellowship
Luncheon: FBC, Jackson- Christian Life Center Dining
Room: 9:00 a.m.- 2 p.m.; Paul Harrell - 601-927-7237 (cell) -
paul3486@att.net

■ Pastors' Conference

email or call for luncheon reservation: Luncheon-FBC,
Jackson-Christian Life Center Auditorium; 11 a.m.-12:55
p.m.; FBC, Jackson-Sanctuary, 1-4:55 p.m.-1st Session;
FBC, Jackson-Sanctuary, 8:15-8:45 p.m.-2nd Session;
Tracy Thomas - 601-925-6427 - tthomas@morrisonheights.org

■ Ministry Wives Conference

FBC, Jackson-5th floor-rooms: 1:30-4:00 p.m.; Vesta Clary -
901-585-6899 (cell) - vclary@mbcb.org

■ WMU Annual Meeting

FBC, Jackson-Chapel / Chapel Dining Room / Chapel
Parlor; 10 a.m.-6:30 p.m.; Tammy Anderson - 601-927-7256
(cell) - tanderson@mbcb.org

■ MBCB Bivocational Ministries Meeting

Baptist Building-Skyroom; 3-4:45 p.m.; Vesta Clary -
901-585-6899 (cell) - vclary@mbcb.org

■ Acts 1:8 Celebration Dinner

Reservation required: FBC, Jackson-FH West; 4:45-6:00
p.m.; Beverly Bridges - 601-954-9024 (cell) - bbridges@
mbcb.org

Tuesday, October 31, 2017

■ Exhibits/Lifeway

FBC, Jackson-Fellowship Hall East; 7:30 a.m.- 9 p.m.;
Marcus Peagler - 601-292-3283 - redwards@mbcb.org

■ Health Fair

FBC, Jackson, Fellowship Hall East Stage; 8:30 a.m.-
12:00 p.m.; MC Nursing School: Deborah Bolian -
601-906-3159 (cell) - bolian@mc.edu

■ Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary Alumni Luncheon

Cost \$16.00 per person / buffet; Capital Club, Capital
Towers; 12:00 NOON; Archie Herrin - archie_herrin@att.net

■ New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Alumni Association Luncheon

Pay at door: FBC, Jackson-Fellowship Hall West; noon-
1 p.m.; Rev. Michael Stevenson - 601-643-7271 (cell)
mestevensonjr@gmail.com

■ Blue Mountain College Alumni Dinner

Tickets available at Blue Mt. College booth in FBC, Jackson-
FH East; FBC, Jackson-Christian Life Center Dining Room;
5 p.m.; Kayce Bragg - 662-685-4771 x119 - 737-807-0601
(cell) - kbragg@bmc.edu

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

■ Exhibit/Lifeway

FBC, Jackson-Fellowship Hall East; 7:30 a.m.-1 p.m.;
Exhibits; 7:30-10 a.m. / Bookstore; 7:30 a.m.-1 p.m.;
Marcus Peagler - 601-292-3283 - redwards@mbcb.org

Just for the Record



CENTER RIDGE CHURCH, DEKALB, licensed Clayton Lancaster to preach. He is shown with his wife Laura and pastor Harvey Troutman.



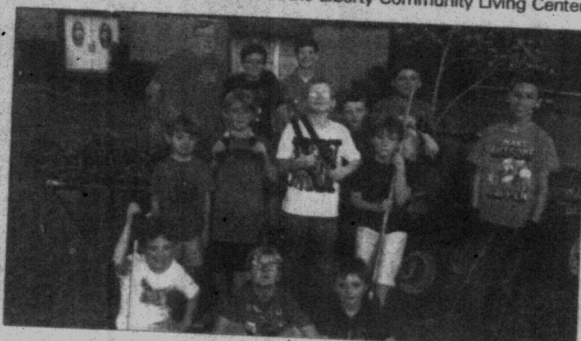
The Bible School team from **ZION HILL CHURCH, LIBERTY**, is shown presenting an In God We Trust program filled with Bible skits, songs, Bible verses, and crafts at the Liberty Community Living Center.



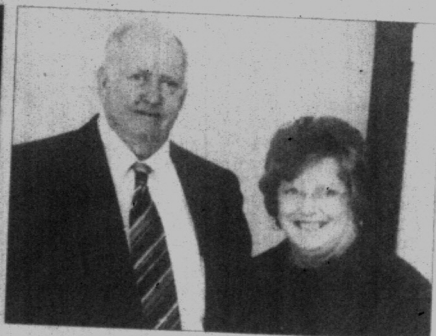
NEW LIBERTY CHURCH, MORTON, honored Paul and Karen Smith Oct. 8 for their work at the church.



BETHLEHEM CHURCH, MORTON, celebrated a note burning Aug. 13 for their new educational wing. Shown are Albert Baker, Butch Gordon, pastor Matt Armstrong, and Debbie Beemon.



The RA's of **CALVARY CHURCH, BRAXTON**, recently did a mission project, trimming the hedges, pulling weeds, and picking up sticks and pine cones for an elderly lady in the community. Lance Varner, pastor.



CALVARY CHURCH, EUPORA, marked the 10th anniversary celebration of pastor Martin L. (Shorty) Carden and his wife, Ginger, with a reception Sept. 24.



Pastor Ralph Hunt and deacon chairman Gary Allread are shown burning the note for the sanctuary remodel of **ETHEL CHURCH, ETHEL**. The 120th anniversary of the church was held during homecoming Oct. 15.



The **SILOAM CHURCH, MEADVILLE**, Children in Action participated in a Christmas In August Mission project by collecting school supplies and gift cards to send to a missionary in Colorado. Pictured are: Leader, Feth Houston, Kamron McManus, Dagen McManus, Sara Beti Jackson, and Leader, Brenda Netterville.



GILLSBURG CHURCH, GILLSBURG, hosted a wild game supper. Drew and Donna Turner enthralled the crowd during the annual event.

In other Church News:

► **Shiloh Church, Big Creek**, is hosting a family fun night Oct. 25, 6 p.m., featuring a trunk "r" treat with games and refreshments, and Jericho Road with biblical characters coming to life. Admission is canned food, a small toy, or monetary donation.

► **Silver Creek Church, McComb**, will host Heaven's Gates and Hells Flames Oct. 22 - 24, 7 p.m.

► **Rolling Creek Church, Quitman**, will host the Freedom Quartet in concert Oct. 27, 7 p.m.



The WMU of **TRINITY CHURCH, CARTHAGE**, collected non-perishable food items for the Leake County Baptist food pantry as their local October mission project.



TERRY'S CREEK CHURCH, MAGNOLIA, honored Catherine Brown Oct. 8 for 50 years of service as administrative assistant. Deacon John M. Bond presented a recognition plaque during the morning service, which included special music and appreciation, followed by a meal and reception.

1942

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WRCN, WRCV WREW EQC URMZC LCCY

LMW E FRVTPXPPEL; KIW WRCV WREW

EQC TPXA.

ZIAC JPSC: WRPQWV-MLC

Clue: U = W

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Mark 8:36

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004. © 2005

Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published.

Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below, and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs must be submitted electronically via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. **Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted.** Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged or returned. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. **Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.** Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

Submit news to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

Praying at U.S. Congress upheld by federal court

WASHINGTON (BP and local reports) — The constitutionality of legislative prayer gained reaffirmation on Oct. 11 when a federal court dismissed an atheist's challenge of the U.S. House of Representatives' right to bar him from delivering an invocation.

Senior U.S. District Judge Rosemary Collyer of the District of Columbia circuit ruled U.S. Supreme Court precedent undergirds the long tradition of prayer to open congressional sessions as well as the House's rules in carrying out the practice.

Collyer is an appointee of former U.S. President George W. Bush, a Republican, and also serves as a judge on the U.S. Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court.

Her ruling came three months after the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit in Richmond, Va., upheld a lower federal court ruling that invalidated the practice in North Carolina, where the Rowan County Board of Commissioners open their meetings with Christian prayers and invite audience members to join them.

Rowan County has appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

"The freedom of religion should exist in every corner of American life, including when Congress meets in session," said Ronnie Floyd, former two-term president of the Southern Baptist Convention and senior pastor of Cross Church in northwest Arkansas, who has himself opened both U.S. Senate and U.S.



IN WASHINGTON — Ronnie Floyd, senior pastor of Cross Church in northwest Arkansas and then-president of the Southern Baptist Convention, leads in prayer before a 2014 session of the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington, D.C. The Freedom From Religion Foundation had sued to permanently end the tradition. (BP photo/C-SPAN screen capture)

House of Representatives sessions with prayer.

"We are a nation built upon the strong commitment, 'In God We Trust,'" Floyd told Baptist Press in an email interview. "There is no greater need in this nation than for all of us to pray. I am convinced we must do all we can to mobilize unified public prayer for America."

Collyer's ruling came in a lawsuit filed by Dan Barker, co-president of the Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF) in Madison, Wisconsin. He contended the refusal to allow him to deliver a secular invocation instead of a prayer to open a

session of the House violated the First Amendment's prohibition on government establishment of religion.

U.S. Rep. Mark Pocan (D-Wis.) sponsored his constituent Barker in the request to the House chaplain to deliver a secular invocation, but the request was declined.

The Continental Congress initiated the tradition of federal legislative prayer in 1774, Collyer wrote. House rules require a prayer, which is consistent with the Establishment Clause, she explained. Either the House chaplain or a guest chaplain opens the chamber's session each day in prayer.

Truth is not relative.

Find it in the One who is the way, truth, and life.

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life.

From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

THE VILLAGE VIEW



Sean A. Milner, Executive Director
P.O. Box 27
Clinton, MS 39060-0027
(601) 922-2242
www.baptistchildrensvillage.com

GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with love and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

OCTOBER 1-15

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Mr. & Mrs. David E. Bowles
Mrs. Syble Lee
Mr. & Mrs. Robert L. Jones

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Concord BC
Mr. Gerald B. Benson
Faithful Workers SSC, Oak
Forest BC

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Ms. Karleigh Harfst
Still Friends
Mrs. Alice Harrell
Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Bryson
Mr. James Harvey
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Mark, Judy, Caleb & Mary
Grace
Dean Henry
Bethel BC
Milly King
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Newman
Mr. Bruce Kilburn
Jean Taylor
Mrs. Effie O. Lewis
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Grove BC
Senior Men's SSC, Bethel BC
Mr. Dan Lewman Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Abel
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Mr. & Mrs. Bill Tomlinson
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Eddleston BC
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Dr. & Mrs. William C. Ashford
Ms. Pam Mills
Dr. & Mrs. William C. Ashford
Mr. Ricky Norris
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas McAdams
Vera Parker
L. Craig Brown and W. P.

Brown, III
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Mr. Charles W. Holmes
Mr. James M. "Jimmy" Polk
Mr. & Mrs. Herman L. Dungan
Cindy Reed
Kyle, Jennifer, Drew & Della
Canmack
Mr. Wayne Rickie
Mr. & Mrs. Jackie Wooley
Ms. Patricia Hart Riley
Mr. Mark Scobey
Mrs. Eva Jean Saucier
Hueylene Winstead

Mrs. Eva Jean Saucier
Mr. & Mrs. James W. Barnes
Mrs. Eva Jean (Jarrell) Saucier
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PASTORS
THANK YOU
FOR ALL YOU DO.
YOU ARE GREATLY
APPRECIATED.

The Baptist Children's Village

BCV EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The BCV employs Christian, mission-minded, husband and wife teams, without dependent children or pets, to serve in the position of Houseparents. The couples must be mature Christian adults with personal integrity, character and of good reputation with standards and ethics expected of any member of The Baptist Children's Village staff.

They receive a salary with benefits and are provided a private bedroom and meals while on duty. The primary job responsibility of Houseparents is to maintain a home-like environment that models healthy, Christian family living for children and youth residents. They are the primary caregivers and help with everything from transportation and homework to laundry and meals when on duty.

Houseparent responsibilities are varied and somewhat dependent upon which campus and to which cottage the couple is assigned. However, all Houseparents need to be in good physical, mental and emotional health. They must be cooperative and comfortable working in a team environment.

To apply for the current Houseparent openings, please contact Celeste Cade at ccade@baptistchildrensvillage.com or 601-922-2242.

A complete job description and application may be downloaded at www.baptistchildrensvillage.com.

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Rebellion • Exodus 32:1-6; 11-16

Television, Facebook, and printed materials have made people aware of Franklin Graham and the work of Samaritan's Purse. Long before he was a preacher, held prayer rallies, and was involved in humanitarian work, he was a rebel. He writes about this in his memoir, "Rebel with a Cause: Finally Comfortable Being a Graham." According to Webster's Dictionary, the word rebel means, "A person who resists any authority or controls." Not only did Franklin resist his parent's authority but most importantly, God's. Eventually the day came when he embraced Jesus. Now he shares that Good News around the world.

Moses was also a rebel. He rebelled against his Egyptian upbringing when he killed the Egyptian soldier. He rebelled against the Lord when he told Him to find someone else to speak to Pharaoh (Ex. 4:13). In today's lesson, the rebel becomes the intercessor. Furthermore, if Moses could subtitle Exodus 32, it would be entitled "The Great Sin" (v. 21).

Moses had been called to meet with God once again, for 40 days and nights, at the top of Mt. Sinai. When God had finished speaking to Moses, He gave him His finger engraved tablets of the testimony. Meanwhile, the people of Israel have grown impatient

and forgetful (vs. 1-4). How could the people of Israel forget so quickly how God brought them through the Red Sea, provided food and water, lead them by the cloud of His presence and a pillar of fire? Before you answer, ask yourself the same question, how quickly do I forget what God has done for me?

In four short verses, we learn how the people came to Aaron and de-

manded he make gods for them. Why? Because they didn't know what had happened to Moses. What were they thinking? Had they not watched Moses and Joshua go up Mt. Sinai? The people banded together and presented their demand to Aaron: "Come, make gods for us who will go before us..." (v. 1). Rather than waiting and remembering God's faithfulness and His covenant promise, they demanded other deities, an idol. This request proved their minds and hearts were clinging to the ways of Egypt (Acts 7:39-40).



Explore the Bible

with Laura Leathers

Aaron obliged! As a leader he should have taken a stand against this act of rebellion. Instead, he devised a plan, fashioned the image, built an altar in front of it, and made a proclamation as to when and how it was to be worshipped. Notice in verse four, credit was given to the gods for bringing the nation of Israel "up from the land of Egypt." Then in verse five, there was to be "a festival to the LORD tomorrow." What a contradiction! So the people arose early the next morning, offered burnt offerings, and presented fellowship offerings. The people

sat down to eat and drink, and got up to party" (v. 6, CSB). In one setting they violated the first, second and seventh commandments. When we worship any person or object other than the one true God we are committing "a great sin". Also notice the progression: impatience-control-idolatry.

In verses 7-10, the LORD informs Moses regarding all which has transpired: the people "have made an image

of a calf, bowed down to it, sacrificed to it... Now leave me alone, so that my anger can burn against them and I can destroy them. Then I will make you into a great nation (CSB)."

What a difficult and heartbreaking experience this must have been for Moses. Yet we see him with love and compassion, becoming God's appointed person (G.A.P.) to intercede on behalf of the people (vs. 11-14, Psalm 106:23). First, he gives God the glory, "with great power and a strong hand." You brought the people out of Egypt. Next, Moses was concerned about God's reputation. "The LORD brought them out with an evil intent to kill them." Then Moses reminds the LORD of the covenant He had made with His treasured people (Gen. 12:1-3). God's character does not change, nor His plan. He is a God of mercy and of grace. Perhaps this was a test for Moses, would he intervene? He did and "the LORD relented concerning the disaster he had said he would bring on his people."

"The good news of Exodus 32, and the good news of the gospel, is that there's more grace in God than sin in us (source unknown)."

Leathers is a member of First Church, Madison.

Solomon: Unfailing Wisdom • 1 Kings 3:3-14; 4:29-34

1 Kings tells us of God's great wisdom that He gave Solomon as a very young King. "God gave Solomon wisdom, very great insight, and understanding as vast as the sands on the seashore. Solomon's wisdom was greater than the wisdom of all the people of the East, greater than all the wisdom of Egypt. He was wiser than anyone," 1 Kings 4:29-31a (CSB).

This generous gift to Solomon and to the people he ruled, was because Solomon loved the Lord and showed his love by keeping God's Laws. The Christian Standard Bible says it this way: "Solomon loved the Lord by walking in the statutes of his father David," 1 Kings 3:3. Solomon knew what God's laws were, how to follow God's Laws, and what it looked like when a man and a king lived in God's will because his father, David, lived that way of life in front of him. Those of us who have had the blessing of a Godly dad can never overestimate the value of that influence in our lives.

God's blessing of Solomon wasn't just because of his father. Solomon personally responded to God. Solomon built the Temple with the materials that David had gathered for it. Therefore, early in his reign, King Solomon could not worship and sacrifice in the temple. But David, a man after God's own heart, taught his son

to worship God regularly with worthy sacrifices. "The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there because it was the most famous high place. He offered a thousand burnt offerings on that altar," 1 Kings 3:4 (CSB). Even though worship in the high places was authorized by God and this later got Solomon in a great deal of trouble. God honored Solomon's sacrifices and worship this time.

Gibeon was 6 miles north of Jerusalem and the tabernacle and its bronze altar were there. "In Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night. And God said, Ask what I shall give you."

Solomon said, You have shown to Your servant David my father great mercy and loving-kindness... and You have kept for him this great kindness and steadfast love, that you have given him a son to sit on his throne this day... I am but a lad [in wisdom and experience];... So give Your servant an understanding mind and a hearing heart to judge Your people, that I may

discern between good and bad; for who is able to judge and rule this Your great people?" 1 Kings 3:5-9 (AMP).

The young king's request pleased God. "God said to him. Because you have asked this, and have not asked for long life, or for riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to recognize what is just and right, Behold, I have done as you asked, I have given you a wise, discerning mind so that no one

before you was your equal, nor shall any arise after you equal to you," 1 Kings 3:11-12 (AMP). Please take careful note that verse

11 began "God said to him," Which clearly means God spoke directly to the young Solomon. I believe when we are open to hear God, He will speak clearly and directly to us personally. Solomon's reign was peaceful, God allowed him to build a beautiful temple and many other great buildings, and his wealth grew exponentially.

Yet, when Solomon wrote the book of Ecclesiastes he began, "The words of

the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem. Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities all is vanity," Ecclesiastes 1:1-2 (KJV). That certainly sounds like a very discouraged, even depressed individual. H.I. Hester in his classic Old Testament college textbook summarizes what happened to King Solomon.

"It is traditional to think of Solomon as an exceptionally wise man. The degree to which we accept this view depends somewhat on our definition or understanding of the meaning of wisdom. Unquestionably, he had a remarkable knowledge of the natural world, plants, and animals, as his proverbs will demonstrate. He seems also to have had a deep understanding of human nature. His famous decision in the case of the two mothers who claimed the same child illustrates this. (1 Kings 3:16-27)

"However, a careful examination of his entire career leads one to question his wisdom, certainly in his behavior. If wisdom means the courage to practice his own precepts, he failed notably. The latter years of his life witnessed the violation of many of the principles of wisdom which he so eloquently proclaimed."

Hicks is Associational Missions Director for Jasper Association.

Bible Studies for Life

with Don Hicks



YOUR GOOD WORKS AND GIVE GLORY TO YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN. MATTHEW 5:16

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE BEFORE MEN, SO THAT THEY MAY SEE

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE BEFORE MEN, SO THAT THEY MAY SEE

MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS

ON HIS

mission

FOR HIS

glory

MARGARET LACKEY
OFFERING FOR STATE MISSIONS
MISSISSIPPI

YOUR GOOD WORKS AND GIVE GLORY TO YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN. MATTHEW 5:16

GARAYWA

The time is now



"At Garaywa this past summer (2016) we had 1300 campers come to be part of Garaywa Missions Camp," said Anne Wilson, Missions Camp Director at Garaywa Camp and Conference Center. "Seventy of those were girls who made professions of faith for the first time. Thirty-five of them were called to missions."

"One of my favorite parts of camp is to show girls that there is a world waiting to know about God's love. We share God's love with campers through a variety of activities, including worship, Bible study, and one-on-one times between campers and cabin leaders. We also have a ton of fun at camp, including swimming,

doing the zipline, being on the ropes course, and just playing games and being in the outdoors."

"At Garaywa last year, I was able to serve for two weeks, and during that two week period we did this black bean exercise where we dumped black beans onto a world map," said Jordan Ball, a summer intern from Louisiana.

"There were 700 pounds of black beans, and at first I was confused as to why in the world we were dumping black beans. Anne Wilson told me later that one black bean represented 200 lost people. It spoke to me as I was dumping these beans into bins that symbolically I was holding these lost people in my hands. So the time

is now. We must share God's message with the lost people of the world."

"Each Thursday night Garaywa dumped these black beans onto the map to show the campers the lost people in the world. One of the campers really responded to this message. She told the camp counselor that she really felt God calling her to be a missionary and talk to people about God's message and God's love."

"Garaywa Missions Camp depends on the Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering in order to provide all of these awesome activities," said Wilson. "It makes it so much more fun for the girls who come to camp in the summer."

ALLOCATIONS

MISSION VOLUNTEERS | \$685,000

Mississippi Baptists mobilized over 30,000 volunteers last year. Margaret Lackey provides training, travel assistance, and connections to Southern Baptist missionaries in North America and around the world. A \$500 gift helps to send a Mississippi volunteer to Asia. Contact Mike Ray or Cassie Munn at (800) 748.1651 ext 398 or (601) 292.3398.

CENTRAL HILLS | \$405,000

"Learning the ropes" of missions involvement is a key function of Central Hills Retreat in Kosciusko. Almost 5,000 campers were trained last year, and many made decisions for Christ. A \$200 gift will cover expenses for a missionary speaker. For more information contact Don Gann (800) 748.1651 ext 339 or (601) 292.3339.

GARAYWA | \$405,000

Garaywa Camp and Conference Center provided missional training and inspiration for more than 6,800 persons last year. Over 1300 campers attended Garaywa Missions Camp and 70 made professions of faith in Christ. A \$185 gift sends a Mississippi girl to camp. Anne Wilson has more information: (601) 924.7034.

COMMUNITY MINISTRY | \$180,000

Margaret Lackey grants help fund church-led mission projects in communities all across our state. Associational Missions Directors identify needs, design Gospel responses, and coordinate the activities. A \$100 gift rents a block party trailer. Talk to your local AMD for more information.

CHURCH MULTIPLICATION | \$175,000

Almost two million Mississippians are unchurched. Margaret Lackey gifts provide the initial funding to start new churches focused on reaching our fellow Mississippians with the Gospel. A \$250 gift provides the weekly rent for a new congregation to meet. Johnny Ervin has more information (800) 748.1651 ext 361 or (601) 292.3361.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE MINISTRIES | \$65,000

Jesus described true faith as "I was in prison and you visited me..." Margaret Lackey funds help provide visits for people in prisons all across our state. Your gifts provide teaching materials for local leaders and seminary classes at Parchman. A \$20 gift purchases a *Free on the Inside Bible*. For more information contact Charles Jones (662) 721.0264 or John Henry (662) 508.0293.

DISASTER RELIEF | \$65,000

When Mississippi hurts, Baptists care! Margaret Lackey trains disaster relief specialists who are ready at the sound of a siren to cook, clean, clear, and encourage the victims of disastrous events. A \$150 gift provides 50 hot meals prepared by our volunteers. For more information contact Don Gann (800) 748.1651 ext 339 or (601) 292.3339.

LANGUAGE/DEAF MINISTRY | \$40,000

Margaret Lackey makes sure our non-reading and non-hearing neighbors have access to the Gospel. Your gifts helped train more than 100 leaders for ESL, ARW, and Chronological Bible Storying. A \$20 gift provides the training workbook needed by volunteers. Call Cindy Townsend (800) 748.1651 ext 318 or (601) 292.3318 for more information about Language Ministry. Call or text Jim Booth (601) 201.3361 for more information about Deaf Ministry.

CROSS CULTURAL EVANGELISM | \$32,500

Margaret Lackey recognizes 6 different language groups in Mississippi. The offering funds also help share the Gospel with over one million African-Americans. A \$10 gift provides a foreign language Bible. Chris McNairy has more information (770) 814.1405.

CWJC/CWJC | \$25,000

Twenty-four percent of Mississippi's population lives below the poverty line. Christian Men's/Women's Job Corps combine discipleship and job skill training to assist men and women. There are more than 20 CWJC/CWJC sites across our state. A gift of \$20 provides *What Every Church Member Should Know About Poverty*, a resource for training ministry volunteers. Tammy Anderson (800) 748.1651 ext. 323 or (601) 292.3323 has more information.

COLLEGIATE OUTREACH | \$12,500

Through our BSU or izanizations, Margaret Lackey encourages international and ethnic students to explore the Gospel and meet Christian believers. A \$25 gift helps host Gospel fellowships on major campuses. Contact Lloyd Luncford or Jennie Taylor at (800) 748.1651 ext 299 or (601) 292.3299.

PORT MINISTRY | \$10,000

More than 5,000 international sailors visit Mississippi every year. Through port ministries in Pascagoula and Gulfport, Margaret Lackey offers a Christian witness and warm hospitality. A \$5 gift purchases a *Jesus Film* that sailors can take home with them. Adrian Turner (229) 623.0103 has more information about the Pascagoula Ministry. Steve Mooneyham (228) 832.4311 has more information about the Gulfport Ministry.

GOAL \$2,100,000